

*Timely Tidbits ...***Free Help with College Financial Aid Forms**

Financial-aid experts and volunteers will be available to guide students through each step of completing and filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during various College Goal Sunday programs, to be held on February 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. More than \$6,000 in gifts and prizes – including scholarships, a Dell laptop computer, and Barnes & Noble gift cards – will be handed out during the events.

Students under 23 years of age are encouraged to attend with a parent or guardian. Each student should bring his/her family's completed 2009 IRS 1040 tax return (if possible) or W-2 and 1099 forms.

Hosting the event will be 29 sites across Michigan, including three in the Metro Detroit area (see below). For additional information, visit [www.micolllegegoal.org](http://www.micolllegegoal.org).

**Locations**

- University of Michigan–Dearborn Fairlane Center South  
19000 Hubbard Drive  
Dearborn, MI 48128
- Eastern Michigan University  
Bruce T. Halle Library  
955 West Circle Drive  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
- Schoolcraft College  
VisTa Tech Center  
18600 Haggerty Road  
Livonia, MI 48152

**Free Tax Prep Service**

The Romulus Senior Center is offering a free tax-preparation service for residents with low incomes and those who are age 60 and older. Volunteers trained by the IRS will be available *by appointment only* between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. each Friday from February 5 through April 14.

Participants should bring all of the following (relevant) documents: last year's tax returns; forms W-2, SSA-1099, and 1099-R; statements of 401 income and unemployment compensation; child-care expense information; forms indicating income tax paid; and receipts/canceled checks (if itemizing deductions).

To make an appointment, call 734-955-4120. □

## Romulus Mayor Lambert Praises ACT-Now Panel as Model for Finding Proactive Budget Solutions

Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert is praising the City's new ACT-Now task force, calling the panel a model for other communities struggling to stay afloat amid a massive statewide budget crisis.

ACT-Now – made up of a diverse group of residents, business people, and other local leaders – met for the second time on January 7 to find ways to help Romulus stay ahead of the crisis, even as predictions indicate a worsening budget meltdown for many local communities.

"Everyone in our community is talking to each other and working collaboratively to find ways we can move forward in these tough economic times," said Lambert. "ACT-Now is a great example of a community coming together to confront a challenge that will impact all of us ... Every citizen in Romulus serving on this panel or giving us feedback deserves our thanks. We have all hands on deck, and we are going to get through this crisis together."

ACT-Now, which stands for Action in Challenging Times Now, held its first meeting Dec. 17 in the council chambers at Romulus City Hall. At that meeting, the 30-plus members received an update on the City's budget situation from auditors Plante & Moran, who pointed out that Michigan's financial crisis is hitting virtually every community and causing staggering budget problems.

Plante & Moran representatives noted

that Romulus had successfully kept costs for public services in check while also building a small budget surplus – factors that contributed to the City's relative stability.

However, in the next four years, the taxable value of Romulus property is projected to drop by more than 24% (about \$2.5 million), and the current fund balance of \$4.2 million could be gone by 2011. Without deeper cuts or increases in revenue, the City could be in the red by a cumulative \$20 million in 2014.

Mayor Lambert acknowledged that the State's budget crisis – coupled with plunging property values and a rapidly shrinking revenue base – are such massive, widespread problems that they threaten to overwhelm even financially sound communities, including Romulus, unless they take proactive measures.

"We need to act now to ensure that Romulus can protect our jobs and our future at a time when the state's economy is struggling," he said. "Doing nothing is not an option because business as usual will send us straight for the budget cliff, as other communities are finding out the hard way. We're ready to roll up our sleeves. We're ready to get to work and come up with real reforms that can get our city on track."

"Here in Romulus, tightening our belts and working together is nothing new," Lambert continued. "We will come up with solutions that protect jobs and our families'

quality of life, and make sure our community has the tools we need to weather the storm. Thanks to the ACT-Now task force, we are ready to respond to this crisis."

Tim Keyes, Director of Economic Development, said the public is strongly encouraged to attend and comment during ACT-Now's final task force meeting, to be held at City Hall beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 21. The panel will also take part in a study session with City Council at 6 p.m. on Monday, January 25.

Other information about ACT-Now meetings, including agendas and Power-Point presentations, may be found on the City's Web site: <http://romulusgov.com>. □

### "Coffees" Provide Chance To Share Views

Taylor Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand is inviting constituents to take part in his new "Coffee with the Mayor" program – a series of monthly meetings, held in an informal setting, that will give residents a chance to learn more about the Mayor's plans, ask him questions, and express their concerns. The sessions will take place on the second Tuesday of each month at coffee houses, coney islands, and other restaurants throughout the city.

"I want to promote our local businesses while making it easier for residents to share their concerns with me," said Lamarand.

The hosting business establishments have agreed to provide seating and free coffee for at least 20 residents. Some may provide appetizers or snacks, as well.

About 30 people attended the Mayor's first Coffee, held January 12 at the Cozy Corner on Ecorse Road. Upcoming dates/sites include:

- February 9 – Original Philip's Restaurant (21335 Ecorse Road, 6 p.m.);
- March 9 – LaMarina Café & Grill (22395 Goddard Road, 6 p.m.);
- April 13 – Isis Coney Island (26866 Eureka Road, 6 p.m.);
- May 11 – Little Daddy's (22250 Eureka Road, 6 p.m.); and
- June 8 – Leon's Family Dining (8787 Telegraph Road, 6 p.m.).

For more information, call the Mayor's Office at 734-374-1450. □

## Elected Officials To Receive Pay Cut

Elected officials in the City of Taylor will be receiving less pay in 2010 and 2011.

At its January 5 meeting, the City Council unanimously voted to receive and file the recent recommendations of the Local Officers Compensation Commission, which suggested a 15% salary reduction for Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand, a 10% reduction for all Council members, and 5% cuts for Clerk Mary Ann Riley and Treasurer Wayne Avery.

The Council could have chosen, instead, to reject the recommendation of the Compensation Commission, thereby maintaining the status quo, or to take no action, and allow the recommendations to take effect by default. Adopting pay raises or cuts that differed from the Commission's recommendation was not an option.

Council first considered the salary reduction issue last month, but tabled the matter after some members – including

Herman "Butch" Ramik and Jacklyn Molner – voiced support for a stronger measure that would establish an across-the-board cut of 15% for all elected officials. They urged the Compensation Commission to meet again and reconsider their vote.

But Chairman Jerry Ziemba made it clear that the Commission was unlikely to change its recommendation, which was based on comparisons to salaries paid in communities similar to Taylor.

With the 15% pay cut, Mayor Lamarand will earn \$86,828 instead of \$102,151 per year. Taylor's other two full-time elected officials, the Clerk and Treasurer, will receive \$64,602 instead of \$68,003 annually. Taylor City Council members' pay dropped from \$13,686 per year to \$12,317. Chairwoman Cheryl Burke, who would have received \$16,306, will get \$14,675, and Chairwoman Pro Tem Jill Brandana's salary will drop from \$14,341 to \$12,906. □



# Guest Commentary

## Romulus Board of Education Trustee Addresses Votes, Accusations, and Recalls

By Robert W. McLachlan, Trustee, Romulus Community Schools

First and foremost, I consider it an honor and a privilege to represent the residents of Romulus on the Board of Education. I take the responsibility quite seriously. When I was sworn into office, I promised to do my best to support the laws of our land, and to represent the interests of our children.

Recent actions within the school community have caused some individuals to make assertions about my voting record and my devotion to children; one such incident involved a very public verbal assault upon my integrity by Kenneth Mientkiewicz, a fellow Board member, immediately following a Board meeting. Although I mean no disrespect to my colleagues on the Board, I will not allow myself to be treated in such a manner without defending myself.

On a board, council, committee, or other group of individuals charged with a common purpose, there are bound to be disagreements and divergent opinions. Responsible and reasonable persons respect that there are different philosophical and theoretical approaches to resolve challenges brought forth. This is not apparent within the Romulus Board of Education, as a whole, because there is little dialogue brought to the table. So-called "Work Sessions" have been held, since my taking office, which were little more than the Superintendent of Schools giving Power-Point presentations to the Board of Education. There was almost zero time allotted for input from the Board. At Board meetings, I have been very vocal about my desire to participate in dialogue relative to the financial status of the district, as well as academic performance/achievement. It is important to note that our current Board President, Cheryle Buckley, is attempting to increase opportunities for dialogue.

I have been accused of being "out to get" our Superintendent. Nothing could be further from the truth. However, it is true that I have been highly critical of some of his decisions, including the "emergency plan" that was being negotiated with employees of the district without Board input. Additionally, I recently requested budget information, and waited an inordinate amount of time to receive the information. More recently, I requested copies of all labor contracts of the district, both union and administrative. The Superintendent still had not produced the information for me by the December 14, 2009 meeting, which is why I brought it out publicly at that meeting. As of the date of writing this letter, January 8, I still have not received the

requested information. It is the Superintendent's request that I meet with him privately to "discuss my issues" prior to receiving the documents. To begin with, other than wanting to become familiar with the content of those contracts so that I am able to make informed decisions and judgments relative to employee matters, I have no "issue" that needs to be addressed. I have refused to meet under that context, and will continue to do so. I am a duly elected member of the Board of Education, and I do not have an obligation to explain my actions, or requests for information, to an employee. I do not condone the operation of business in closed-door, "sidebar" meetings with the Superintendent.

Board of Education meetings are the official forum for the Board to conduct the regular business of the district, as well as for members to debate and dialogue about current issues facing the school community. When private meetings are held, other Board members do not benefit from the discussion, and the appearance of a lack of transparency is allowed to grow.

I have been accused of "not caring about kids" and of being irresponsible because of a few recent "no" votes I have cast. These are the votes in question:

- I voted "no" to reinstate a student from expulsion. This particular student had threatened several staff members. As a Board member, I see my responsibility to protect the students who attend school and obey the rules as greater than that of seeking State funding to retain incorrigible and potentially dangerous students.
- I voted "no" to direct the Superintendent of Schools to reduce spending this school year by \$2 million. I did this because the Board, as a whole, had zero input on where that money was to be cut. Clearly, the Board of Education has the authority and the responsibility to have meaningful direction in this area.
- I voted "no" to allow the Superintendent of Schools to "negotiate an emergency plan" with district employees. Again, I voted this way because I was not afforded any opportunity to discuss alternative budget reduction measures, which, in my opinion, would not have impacted the district as harshly as the "emergency plan." Such plans could include items like reduction in administrative positions, adjustments to the school calendar, deferment of capital outlay expenses, etc.
- I voted "no" to reinstate yet another student from expulsion. In this case, the student – whom we had placed in a

homebound schooling situation – was actually performing better academically than ever before. Furthermore, this student assaulted a staff member. I remain resolute that we have a duty to protect the students who are in our schools to learn from any persons who pose a threat.

- I voted "no" to lay off six teachers. Again, there have been absolutely no discussions as a Board of Education relative to alternative budgetary measures. Until this happens, I cannot support laying off teachers, which will have the result of increasing class sizes, not to mention midyear disruption with use of substitute teachers.

As a member of the Board of Education, I will continue to vote my conscience and convictions when it comes to making resources work to the maximum benefit of our students, regardless of the personal attacks being made on me.

There is also discussion circulating around town about a potential recall election aimed at Board of Education mem-

bers, and some are insinuating that I am somehow involved. For the record, categorically, I am not. I recognize that recall attempts are the legitimate right of voters who feel they have no other course to redress their grievances. However, as a rule, I am opposed to recall elections. I feel that Board members, when elected, try to do the best job they can. If and when a member runs for reelection, that is, to me, the most appropriate time for voters to evaluate their service. Recall elections are expensive and disruptive to the community.

I thank you for taking the time to learn the facts surrounding the accusations against me. I assure you that I will remain committed to the principles on which I ran for this seat, and that I will maintain open, frank communications with you regarding my representation. As one tool to keep communicating with you, I urge you to visit my Web site, [www.rmclachlan.com](http://www.rmclachlan.com).

*Editor's note: The Guest Commentary column is open to all responsible individuals and spokespersons. For more information, call Kristi Stephens, editor, at 734-941-1907. □*

### the little paper

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## Fire Union Honors Firefighters-for-a-Day

Three Taylor residents who took part in extensive one-day firefighting training have been rewarded for their efforts.

Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand, City Council Chairwoman Cheryl Burke, and businessman Tim Witz received a firefighter helmet and certificate of completion of the International Association of Fire Fighters Fire Ops 101 program for elected officials.

The presentation was made during a recent Council meeting by Lieutenant Stan Pochron and Fire Medic Bryan Schwesing, the president and vice president, respectively, of the Taylor Professional Fire Fighters Union.

Lamarand, Burke, and Witz joined counterparts from other communities for the program, which was held at the Michigan Institute for Public Safety and Education at the Wayne County Community College District's Downriver Campus in Taylor.

The goal of the training was to give city officials a better understanding of a job over which they have financial control.

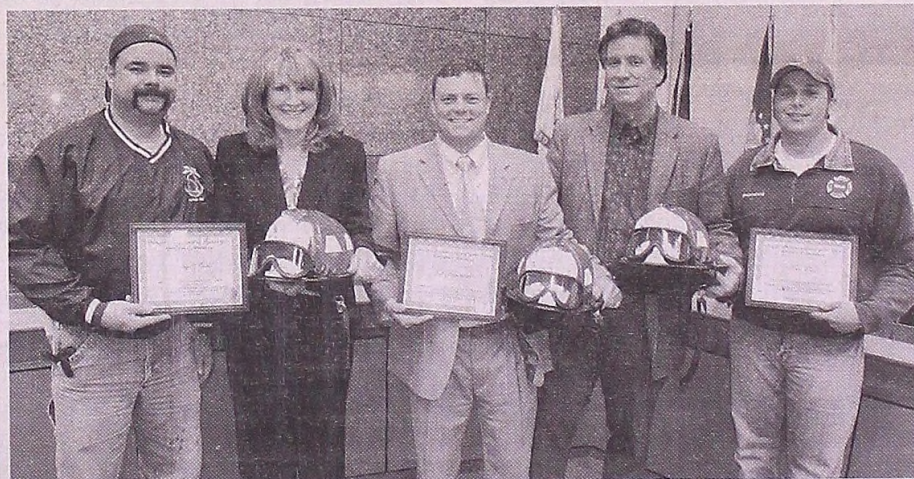
Participants in the program performed hands-on firefighting and rescue operations wearing about 60 pounds of turnout gear, including a jacket, pants with suspenders, tall rubber boots, a hood, goggles, a helmet, gloves, and an air mask-oxygen tank.

Along with WCCCD and union sup-



Taylor City Council Chairwoman Cheryl Burke recently participated in Fire Ops 101, a program designed to give elected officials a better understanding of a job over which they have financial control.

port, the program was made possible by donations from Taylor Auto Salvage, AccuMed Billing in Brownstown Township, and Lyons Towing in Trenton. □



Taylor Professional Fire Fighters Union President Stan Pochron (left) and Vice President Bryan Schwesing (right) presented helmets and certificates to City Council Chairwoman Cheryl Burke, Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand, and local business owner Tim Witz.

### Register Now for Mayor Lambert's Fitness Challenge

Keep your 2010 resolutions for fitness and/or weight loss by participating in Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert's Fitness Challenge at the Romulus Athletic Center – and receive a voucher for a free Land Fitness class and free Aquatic Fitness class just for registering!

And, if you're one of the top three finishers in your division's competition to lose the highest percentage of body weight, you'll receive one of the following prizes:

- first place – a one-year Family Boarding Pass membership, plus one year of weekly, half-hour sessions with the RAC trainer of your choice;

- second place – a one-year Individual Boarding Pass membership;
- third place – a Land Fitness and Aquatic Fitness punch pass.

The official weigh-in period for the competition will begin Monday, January 18, and continue through Sunday, January 24. The official weigh-out period will be from Friday, March 19, through Monday, March 22. (Participants must weigh out by 10 p.m. on March 22 to be considered eligible for prizes.)

For more information about this or other fitness programs, stop in at the RAC (35765 Northline Road) or call 734-942-2223. □



## Taylor Honors Homegrown World Champion of Rock-Paper-Scissors



Taylor Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand (right) congratulated Tim Conrad (holding trophy), world champion of rock-paper-scissors, and other Elite 47 group members: (from left) Keith Barnes, Luther Barnes, Tom Butkin, Sean Perry, Brian Morba, Anna Antonnicola, and Nicole Dudenhofer. Photo by Dave Gorgon

The world champion of rock-paper-scissors has been honored by City of Taylor elected officials.

Tim Conrad, a 22-year-old Taylor man who won the world title at a 512-player tournament in Toronto, received a proclamation during a City Council meeting last month.

The proclamation – presented by Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand – congratulated Conrad, tournament runner-up Tom Butkin, and other members of their Elite 47 group for competing in the tournament and “bringing positive attention to the City of Taylor.” It also noted that the elected officials “take extra pride in the fact that a world champion calls Taylor home.”

Conrad is a graduate of Taylor’s John F. Kennedy High School, and works at the Aéropostale clothing store at the Southland Shopping Center. He traveled with five other members of Elite 47 for the November 15 tournament that was sponsored by the World RPS Society and Yahoo! Canada.

Also among the 512 competitors were representatives of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, France, Norway, and Mexico.

To represent the United States, Conrad

donned a red-white-and-blue Captain America costume, which inspired pride in fellow Americans, but drew some ridicule from spectators from other countries.

Over five hours, Conrad took part in nine grueling matches, picking up victory after victory, until it came down to the championship match against Butkin – his best friend and a fellow lifelong Taylor resident – in the first all-American final in RPS championship history.

In the final match, Conrad’s paper covered Butkin’s rock to give Captain America the world championship, a large trophy, and the \$7,000 first prize. During the following bout of media attention – not just in metro Detroit, but in Canada and other points across the world – he proudly touted Taylor as his hometown.

Butkin earned \$1,500 for second place.

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### Unemployed Eligible for Reduced Recreation Rates

The Taylor Recreation Center is offering six-month memberships at a reduced rate of \$50 to up to 10 of the city’s unemployed residents. To qualify, residents must show their most recent unemployment check.

The memberships include the use of the weight room, cardiovascular room, gymnasium, walking track, sauna, and locker room, and also provide multiple discounts on current programs like the new golf cages and various youth programs.

“If you’re unemployed, chances are

you’re not spending money on recreation or exercise,” said Recreation Center Manager Chris Schwartz. “We figure we can give back to the community by providing some discounted memberships. You can visit the recreation center for a healthy lifestyle at a minimal price.”

The Recreation Center is located at 22805 Goddard Road, just west of Pardee Road.

For more information on Recreation Center programming, including the formation of new wallyball leagues, call 734-374-3901. □

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## Taylor Police Canine and Handler Honored for Making B&E Arrests

One of the Taylor Police Department's three crime dogs and the officer in charge of him have been honored for their work leading to the arrest of two suspects in a garage burglary.

Corporal Kristina Corne and her dog Indy were presented with a plaque during the January 5 City Council meeting. The plaque was created by Taylor resident and Meadow Bar owner Michael Matthews, whose garage was burglarized the evening of November 2, 2009.

According to Chief of Police Dale Tamsen, Officer Jeff Shewchuk first responded to the Matthews home in the 6000 block of McGuire to investigate a home invasion. Matthews told him his garage had been broken into and items were stolen.

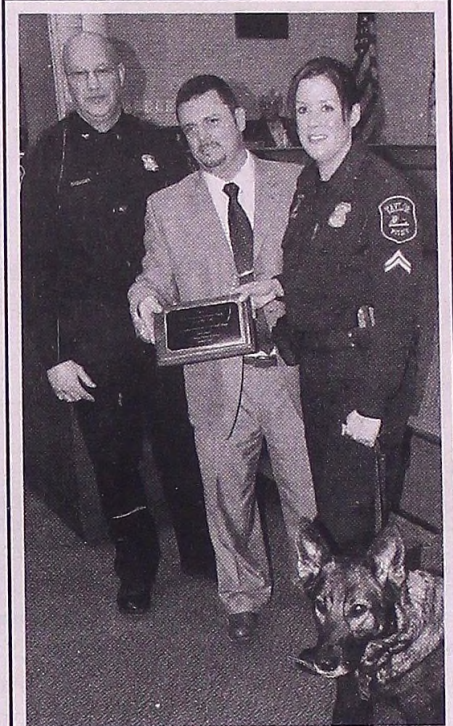
A witness told Officer Shewchuk that he saw two males in the backyard, one of whom was seen pushing an item down the street, putting the item in another garage on McGuire, and then walking to a third address on McGuire.

Officer Shewchuk called for canine assistance, and Corporal Corne and Indy tracked the culprits from the victim's garage to the garage containing the stolen items. One defendant was arrested at the scene.

Officers then went to the second address on McGuire, spoke to a second suspect, and arrested him as well.

Tamsen said Corporal Corne and Indy assisted in the investigation and provided officers with probable cause to link the defendants to the crime. Both defendants have been charged.

Matthews, who has held fund-raising events for the police canine unit at Meadow



Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand (center) and Chief of Police Dale Tamsen presented Corporal Kristina Corne (and her canine partner, Indy) with a plaque for work that led to the arrest of two suspects in a B&E case.

Bar, said he wanted to recognize Corporal Corne and Indy for their work on the case. The plaque was presented by Chief Tamsen and Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand.

Corporal Corne praised all of the officers involved in the arrest, and thanked the City for having a canine unit that enables investigators to help solve crime in Taylor and surrounding communities. □

## Cory Students Bring Cheer to Willow Creek



Dawn Pluff's fourth-grade students at Cory Elementary in Romulus recently completed a special service-learning project with the residents at Willow Creek Assisted Living in Belleville. The students helped residents complete a winter craft project, then shared a snack and played BINGO! Among those who got together for the intergenerational game were (from left) Ronnie Johnson, Shanell Searcy, Nasje Hunt, and David Elliott.

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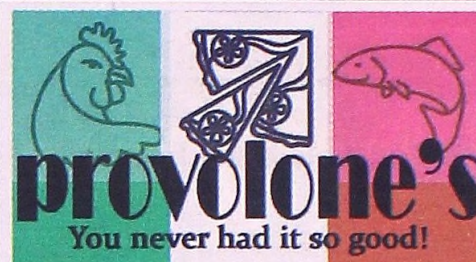
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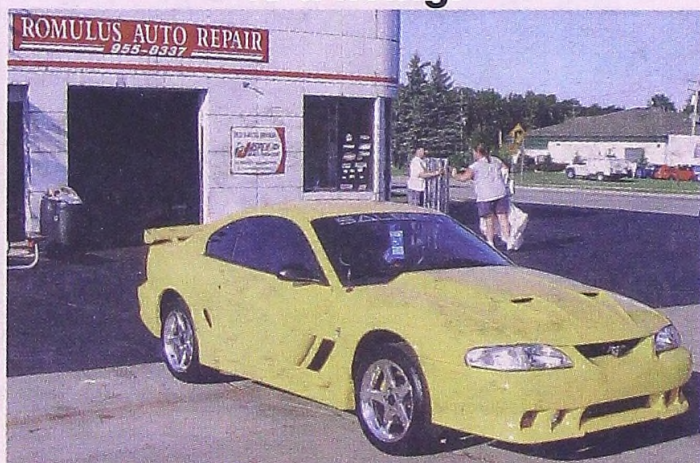
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## **Taylor Mayor's Youth Advisory Council To Host Michigan Youth Symposium**



Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand and Youth Advisory Council advisor Lora Dillingham of the Parks and Recreation Department were proud to announce that the 2009–2010 Advisory Council will host this year's Michigan Youth Symposium in March.

With its expanded membership of 27 high-school students, the 2009–2010 Mayor's Youth Advisory Council in the City of Taylor is bigger and better than ever.

Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand's Advisory Council members were introduced during a recent City Council meeting. They include:

- Harry S. Truman High School freshmen Abraham Alazazi, Kayla Fisher, Kaleigh Hamilton, Robert Helton, David Kennedy, Deon Kennedy, and Erin Waller; sophomores Megan Bonnici, Brittany Borg, and Amanda Rauch; juniors Macey Devoy, Chloe Talley, and Elise Waller; and seniors Greg Gardner, Ryan Nickowski, and Ryan Pykor.
- John F. Kennedy High School sophomores Cierra Blair and Kelsey Hernandez; and seniors Josh Brant, Jacob Dent, Josh Robbins, and Shelby Thompson.
- Trillium Academy sophomore Michael Parks; juniors Ian Beattie, Ian Fromm, and John Laxton; and senior Alexandra Ridley.

The Youth Advisory Council was formed in 2003 to generate constructive input on improving recreation programming for teenagers. The group – which meets twice a month at the Department of Golf, Parks and Recreation – has planned several events with a focus on teen interests. These events have included Poetry Reads at the Sheridan Community Center, Battles of the Bands at the Heritage Park Activity Building, and Lock-Ins at the Taylor Recreation Center.

The Advisory Council also performs community service work such as volunteering at the Fish and Loaves Community Food Pantry and at special city events.

This year, the Taylor council has been chosen to host the Michigan Youth Symposium. The conference will bring together hundreds of teens from other communities to share ideas about what they do in their cities. The Taylor council will be responsible for planning the weekend event, which will be held March 26–27. □

## **Boys & Girls Club Gets Generous Donation**



(From right) Jill Covell, director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan's Romulus and Belleville sites, accepted a donation of \$400 from Dr. Jeremiah Shaft, D.C., of True Health Chiropractic in Romulus. Shaft raised the money last fall during the Romulus Pumpkin Festival, when he offered new patients a free consultation, including x-rays and examination, in return for a donation. Also pictured are (from left) Megan Michael, Myles Davis, Austin McCumber, Xavion Grantham, and Emmanuel Murphy. Photo by R. E. Kadau



## Sassy Seniors

For information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate center.

### Romulus

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#### Senior Shopping

The Senior Center bus travels to area shopping destinations like Meijer and Kmart on the first three Mondays of each month.

Transportation is free. Space is limited. Register at least 24 hours ahead.

#### Special Trips

Special trips planned for the coming months include:

- **Little River Casino** (Saturday, February 13; \$129),
- **"Mardi Gras"** (Tuesday, February 16; \$18), and
- **Fire Keepers** (Saturday, February 20; \$28 includes \$20 in coins, \$5 in food, and breakfast).

Call for details.

#### Regular Programs

Contact the Senior Center for more information on these free or low-cost weekly programs, including:

- bingo (Mondays/Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- knitting/crochet classes (Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 6 p.m.),
- painting (Fridays, 11 a.m.), and
- walking club (Fridays, 11 a.m., at the Romulus Athletic Center).

#### Care-giver Support Group Meets

The next meeting of the Care-giver Support Group will be held on Wednesday, January 27, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are welcome.

#### Monthly Services

The Romulus Senior Center distributes liquid nutrition, commodities, and Focus: HOPE goods. Call for more information.

#### Hot Lunches Warm Frigid Afternoons

Just a reminder that the Romulus Senior Center serves a hot meal at 11:30 a.m. each weekday for a suggested donation of just \$2.25. Call at least 24 hours in advance to make your reservation.

#### Get The Communicator

The Romulus Senior Center's newsletter, *The Communicator*, is chock-full of information about special events, trips, and support services. To receive a copy in your mailbox each month, free of charge, call the Center.

### Taylor

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#### Valentine's Day Dance

Dance to the music of Solitaire and enjoy hamburgers and dessert when the Ford Senior Center celebrates Valentine's Day on Friday, February 5, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Cost is \$7. Deadline for tickets is Friday, January 29.

#### "An Afternoon at the Movies"

Enjoy a gourmet buffet and dessert, then see *Everything Is Fine* – with free popcorn and beverages! – on Tuesday, January 19. Bus departs from the Center at 10:15 a.m. and returns at about 4 p.m.

A cost of \$18.75 includes transportation, lunch, and admission. Preregistration required.

#### "Craft 2000"

Enjoy shopping at Craft 2000, the craft-supply superstore, when the Senior Center bus travels to Monroe on Friday, January 29, from 10:30 a.m. to about 4 p.m. Also scheduled are stops for lunch (Super China Buffet) and ice cream (Independent Dairy).

Cost is \$2 for transportation, plus shopping and food. Preregistration is required.

#### Greektown Casino

If you love to gamble, but hate the hassles of traffic and parking, this trip to Greektown Casino is for you! The Ford Center's new bus will depart at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, February 19, and return at approximately 4 p.m.

Cost is just \$2! Sign up early.

#### "Tea Socials"

Local seniors are invited to come to the Center each Wednesday at 1 p.m. for board games, cards, or just to socialize.

New faces are welcome!

#### Check Your Blood Pressure

The Center has tentatively scheduled free blood-pressure checks from 8:30 to 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 21, and Thursday, January 28. Just drop in! ☐

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

#### the little paper

P.O. Box 74038  
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_

Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Paternal Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): \_\_\_\_\_

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

### ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Bride's Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Parents \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Parents \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaids \_\_\_\_\_

Groomsmen \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Engagement \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

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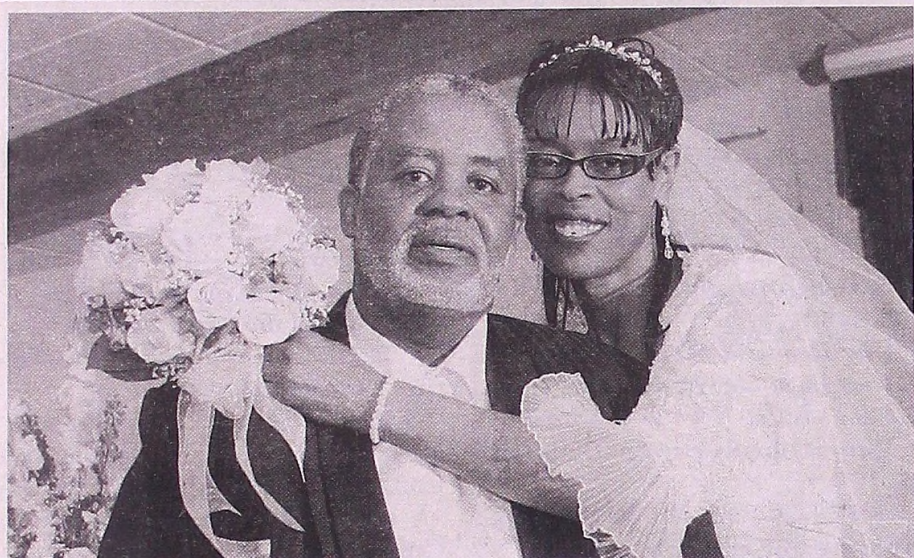
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Romulus, Michigan 48174

**941-5025**



## Wedding Bells

### Jesse and Latral (Austin) Charles



Jesse and Latral (Austin) James

Best wishes to the happy couple of Jesse and Latral (Austin) Charles of Romulus, who were married on August 29, 2009. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Krafus Walker, the bride's youngest brother, at Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ (Inkster, MI).

Attending Latral was her matron of honor, Debra Slater; her maid of honor, Laneetra Austin (daughter); and her bridesmaid, Priscilla Herring (sister).

Standing up with Jesse were his best man, Vinel Walker (brother of the bride and longtime friend of the groom, who introduced the couple on October 26, 2008), as

well as groomsmen Robert Roscoe and Leondo Smith.

Dejuan Chapman and Alexis Winbush were ring bearer and flower girl, respectively.

Laneetra's sons, Harret and Antoine Austin, filled in as "fathers of the bride"; representing her mother was Laneetra's aunt, Ethel Jordan.

Serving in the roles of "mother of the groom" were Jesse's sister, Precilla Sassau, and his godmother, Polly Lopez.

A reception at Wayne Tree Manor (Wayne, MI) followed the ceremony.

The couple spent their honeymoon on a cruise in the Bahamas. □

## Obituary

### Elinor Wojciechoski

Elinor Wojciechoski of Belleville, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, January 13, 2010. She was 78 years old.

The daughter of the late Alfred Otto Sr. and Vera (Cook) Brendtke was born in Romulus, Michigan, on October 8, 1931.

Elinor retired from Ford Motor Company's Ypsilanti plant after 30 years of loyal service. She enjoyed sewing, dancing, and keeping up with current events, and especially loved spending time with her family and her dog Tootsie, her loyal companion.

Surviving Elinor are 2 children, Danny Wojciechoski (Belleville) and Debbie Wojciechoski (Sumpter Township, MI); 7 grandchildren, Danny Jr., Benjamin, Joe, Candy, Rhonda, Tristie, and Danielle; 10 great-grandchildren (with one on the way); 9 siblings, Marie Gonyaw (Belleville),

Gertrude Bogoske (Belleville), Edward (Becky) Brendtke (Belleville), Alfred Brendtke, Jr. (Ypsilanti), Calvin (Barbara) Brendtke (Saline, MI), Alvera (John) Lindfield (Monroe, MI), Grace Ann (Ed) Publiski (Rose City, MI), Gary Brendtke (Ypsilanti), and Jerry (Sue) Brendtke (Rose City).

Among those who preceded her in passing were her husband, Gerald Wojciechoski; a grandson, Cameron Holton; and 2 sisters, Gladys Wojie and Edna Holton.

Visitation will be at David C. Brown Funeral Home (Belleville) on Friday, January 15, from 2 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, January 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entombment at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock) will follow. Memorial contributions to Arbor Hospice & Home Care or to ALS of Michigan would be appreciated. □

## Wedding Bells

### Alan R. and Diane L. (Banks) Lambert

Congratulations and best wishes to the Honorable Mayor Alan R. Lambert and Diane L. (Banks) Lambert of Romulus on their recent marriage.

The couple, who had been engaged since June 4, 2002, exchanged their wedding vows at Marco Beach (Marco Island, FL) on Monday, November 30, 2009 – the seventh anniversary of their first date.

Diane was attended by her maid of honor, Katherine D. Banks. Standing up with Alan was his best man, Justin A. Lambert.

A reception, held at the Marco Beach Ocean Resort, immediately followed the ceremony.

Diane is the daughter of the Honorable Mary Ann Banks, former Mayor Pro Tem of Romulus, and Bob Banks (both deceased).

Alan's parents are Daniel and Dorothy Lambert (both deceased). □



Diane L. and Alan R. Lambert

## 50th Anniversary

### Thomas and Pamela Fellows Renew Vows

Thomas E. and Pamela F. Fellows of Romulus, Michigan, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary by renewing their marriage vows at First United Methodist Church (Farmington, MI) on January 8, 2010.

Judy (Hannah) Belanger and Patrick Loomis, who were attendants at the couple's first wedding, also took part in

the ceremony, over which Reverend Caroline Wik presided.

A celebratory dinner at Angelo Brothers Ristorante and Banquet Hall (Westland, MI) followed.

Pamela's parents are the late Henery and Donelda Sizeland. Thomas is the son of the late Charles and Christine Fellows. □

## 50th Anniversary

### Howard and Patricia (Handa) Moffat

On November 14, 2009, Howard and Patricia (Handa) Moffat of Romulus, Michigan, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with family and friends at Wayne Tree Manor (Wayne, MI).

The couple married on November 14, 1959, at Buena Vista Presbyterian Church (Buena Vista, PA).

Howard and Patricia have two sons, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, all of whom reside in Michigan.

Howard retired in 2001 after working 35 years as a mechanic for Northwest Airlines.



Howard and Patricia Moffat



# Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to *the little paper* at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to [thelittlepaper@comcast.net](mailto:thelittlepaper@comcast.net) no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 22.

## New Boston

### Nursery Accepting Registration for Tots Program

Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery – a nonprofit, nondiscriminatory preschool for children ages 30 months to 5 years – is now accepting registrations for its "Just You & Me" tots program. The school is located in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig Street).

Cost is \$50 for the eight-week session, which will meet on Saturdays beginning March 3 from 10 to 11:15 a.m.

For information, call 734-753-5978 or visit [www.huroncountryside.com](http://www.huroncountryside.com).

## Romulus

### Community Celebrates Life and Work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Romulus community's annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is set for Monday, January 18.

Events will begin at 7:15 a.m. with a program at Cory Elementary School (35200 Smith Road), followed by a ceremonial walk from Cory to Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road) at 8 a.m. Walkers who wish to do so may park at the high school, where free bus transportation to Cory will be available at 7 a.m.

Afterward, from 8 to 9 a.m., a free pancake breakfast, prepared and served by members of the Romulus Rotary Club, will be offered in the RHS cafeteria. Donations for the Rotarian Interact Club will be welcome and appreciated!

A commemorative program will follow at 9:15 a.m. in the auditorium.

Participants are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Drive/Distribution.

For information about the event – co-sponsored by the City of Romulus, the Romulus Community Schools, the Romulus Ministerial Alliance, and the Wayne County Executive's Office – call Louise Briody (734-532-1643), Ellen Craig-Bragg (734-955-4545), or Reverend Arthur Willis (313-701-2423).

### Basham To Speak at Chamber Luncheon

State Senator Raymond E. Basham will be the guest speaker at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce's next business luncheon, to be held Monday, January 25, at the Best Western Gateway International Hotel (9191 Wickham Road).

Cost is \$15 for members; \$18 for non-members. Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m., with lunch following at noon. Seating is limited, so early registration is strongly recommended.

For information, call 734-893-0694 or e-mail [info@romuluschamber.com](mailto:info@romuluschamber.com).

### Winter Story-time at the Library

Children ages three to eight will love the Winter Story-time program at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road). The program – which features songs and crafts as well as stories – is offered in parents' choice of two sessions: 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday (January 26 through March 2) or Thursday (January 28 through March 4).

Although the program is free, advance registration is required.

Call 734-942-7589 for information.

### Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in for discussion and refreshments.

- Books planned for discussion include:
- *Fasting, Feasting* by Anita Desai (February 8),
  - *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain (March 8),
  - *The Wailing Wind* by Tony Hillerman (April 12),
  - *Darker Than Night* by Tom Henderson (May 10),
  - *One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd* by Jim Fergus (June 14), and
  - *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen (July 12).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

### Hypnotherapy for Weight Loss

A one-day hypnotherapy session for weight reduction will be held at the Romulus Athletic Center (35765 Northline Road) on Saturday, February 13, at 1:30 p.m.

Cost is \$25. Preregister by Thursday, February 11.

For information, call 734-941-8665.

### Roast Beef Dinner Benefits Church

Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive Street) will hold its next Roast Beef Dinner fund-raiser on Saturday, February 13, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, veggies, dinner roll, dessert, and beverage will be available for a donation of \$8 for adults and \$4 for children over five. Dine in or carry out!

Proceeds will be used by the Men's Club for its outreach mission ministries.

For information, call 734-941-0736.

## Taylor

### Taylor South Little League Registration

Registration for the 2010 Taylor South Little League program will be held at the Junior League World Series building in Heritage Park (12111 Pardee Road) on Saturday, January 23, from noon to 4 p.m., and Sunday, January 24, from 1 to 5 p.m.

The League is open to players ages 4 to 18.

The fee for registration is \$30 per player. Bring a new player to registration, and both the returning and new player will pay half price (\$15). There is no mandatory fund-raising.

For details, call 734-287-4232 or visit <http://www.eteamz.com/taylorsouth>.

### Daddy-Daughter Dance Date Set

Tickets are now on sale for one of the city's most popular annual events.

Daddy-Daughter Dance programs – one from 4 to 6 p.m., a second from 7 to 9 p.m. – will be held on Saturday, February 13, at the William Ford Senior Activity Center (6750 Troy Street).

Fathers and daughters (grades kindergarten through six) will enjoy a Valentine-themed evening of hors d'oeuvres and beverages, corsages for the girls, and a keepsake souvenir photo, as well as dancing to DJ music. Other highlights will include a balloon artist and a chocolate fountain.

Tickets are \$20 per father/daughter couple, plus \$5 for each additional daughter in the same family. Tickets may be purchased at the Parks and Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road). Note that this event usually sells out quickly, so early registration is advised. *No tickets will be sold at the door.*

For information, call 734-374-3906.

## ATTENTION: Residents of Romulus

If you have not yet received your 2010 City of Romulus Parks and Recreation Department calendar, please call 734-941-8665.

The City would like to thank all of the sponsors who helped to make the calendar possible. □

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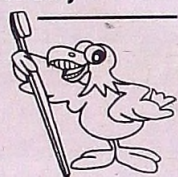
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## Kindergarten Registration

- Quality education for your child
- Focused Reading/Math Program
- New math and reading textbooks
- 24/7 online services
- Technology
- Art, PE, and vocal/instrumental music offered
- N.C.A. accredited schools
- Blue Ribbon schools
- School latchkey program available
- Boys & Girls Club available until 8:30 p.m. for \$35/year  
Includes transportation from home school to Boys & Girls Club schools



**Your child must be 5 years old before December 1, 2010 to register**

### Bring with you:

Child's birth certificate  
Three proofs of residency

Child's health record  
Parent/guardian's photo ID

**Wednesday, February 3 – 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Barth Elementary  
38207 Barth Road

734-532-1250

Merriman Elementary  
15303 Merriman Road

734-532-1400

Cory Elementary  
35200 Smith Road

734-532-1300

Romulus Elementary  
32200 Beverly Road

734-532-1450

Halecreek Elementary  
16200 Harrison Road

734-532-1350

Wick Elementary  
36900 Wick Road

734-532-1500

**All-Day Kindergarten in Every Elementary**